

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please cancel claims 2 and 3 and amend claims 1 and 4-13 as follows:

1. (currently amended) ~~A composition for delivering an RNA to a mammalian cell comprising a post-synthetically modified RNA~~
A modified RNA comprising: a functional group post-synthetically linked to an RNA via a labile bond wherein said functional group enhances delivery of said RNA to a mammalian cell.
2. (canceled) The modified RNA of claim 1 wherein a plurality of functional groups are attached to said RNA via labile bonds.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) ~~The composition~~ modified RNA of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein the functional group is linked to a ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA.
5. (currently amended) ~~The composition~~ modified RNA of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein the functional group is selected from the list consisting of: hydrophobic group, membrane active compound, cell penetrating compound, cell targeting signal, interaction modifier, and steric stabilizer.
6. (currently amended) ~~The composition~~ modified RNA of claim 4 wherein the ~~modified RNA~~ is modified at: a single ribose 2' hydroxyl of the RNA, more than one but not all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA, or all of the ribose 2' hydroxyls of the RNA.
7. (currently amended) ~~The composition~~ modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA consists of a silylated RNA.
8. (currently amended) ~~The composition~~ modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA consists of an acylated RNA.
9. (currently amended) ~~The composition~~ modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA consists of an alkylated RNA.
10. (currently amended) ~~The composition~~ modified RNA of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein the ~~composition modified RNA further comprises~~ is associated with a transfection agent.
11. (currently amended) ~~The composition~~ modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the RNA is selected from the list consisting of: siRNA and microRNA.

12. (currently amended) The ~~composition~~ mammalian cell of claim 1 wherein the mammalian cell consists of: an *in vivo* mammalian cell or an *in vitro* mammalian cell.
13. (currently amended) The ~~composition~~ modified RNA of claim 1 wherein the modified RNA is more resistant to nucleases than the same RNA if it were not ~~modified~~ linked to the functional group.
14. (new) The modified RNA of claim 1 wherein a plurality of functional groups are attached to said RNA via labile bonds.